Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did these ladies seat themselves in the place reserved for the D. S. P.?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The D. S. P. was not there. No complaint or protest was received from any of the passengers. So no enquiry was made.

Forced labour in the State.

98. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government state the total number and nature of instances of forced labour that have come to their notice during the last one year and the action they have taken in respect of each?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Nil.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, whether any specific enquiry was made about such a practice after receiving this question?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—An enquiry into the particular instance was made. When it was found there was no foundation there was no necessity for any general enquiry.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I am asking whether there is such a practice in the village parts.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The authorities had no occasion to know whether there is any such practice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—At least when a question was received, was there not a necessity to see whether there is a practice or not?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. The authorities did not come to know of any incident of this kind. If there has been such a practice as is alleged in the question naturally the authorities would have come to know of it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I take it that there was no specific complaint from the injured parties?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No complaint has been received.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was there any information to the Government from the press or the platform?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—A particular incident is referred to in the subsequent question. Something was said about that incident in the papers. There has been no general reference. This is only a case of one incident. On enquiry it was found out to be not true.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to understand that the Government are in a position to assert that there is no such a general practice?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is no forced labour in Cochin State so far as the Police are aware.

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